

Express Mail No. EV 410 060 132 US
Application No. 09/765,924
Reply to Office action of October 21, 2003

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-9 (cancelled):

Claims 10-16 (Previously cancelled)

Claim 17 (original): A method for joining two corrugated pipe sections comprising the steps of:

bell-forming at least one end of a first corrugated pipe section and at least one end of a second corrugated pipe section;

reducing an amount of corrugations at said bell-formed ends of said first and second corrugated pipe sections;

inserting a connector insert having a first end and a second end adapted to fit within said first and second bell-formed ends of said corrugated pipe sections into said first bell-formed end of said corrugated pipe section; and

inserting said second bell-formed corrugated pipe section over said second end of said connector insert.

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Claim 18 (currently amended): The method for joining two corrugated pipe sections of claim [[15]]¹⁷, wherein said reducing step further comprises reducing said corrugations in height.

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Claim 19 (currently amended): The method for joining two corrugated pipe sections of claim [[15]]¹⁷, wherein said bell-forming step further comprises heating said at least one end of said first and said second ends of corrugated pipe section and molding said first and second ends of corrugated pipe section.